

AUSTRALIAN

UFO

BULLETIN



THE VICTORIAN U.F.O. RESEARCH SOCIETY

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The Society has yet to receive a report for 1977 that could be classed as unidentified. A preliminary report on the observation of a nocturnal light on Jan. 1, 1977 has been received, but on the information given, and pending further inquiries, a natural explanation cannot be ruled out:

A man and his wife travelling by car near Derrinallum at about 11 p.m. saw the object at about 20 degrees in the NNE. Larger than a star, the object was described as bright yellow and circular with horizontal protrusions. The man, who has a background of 26 years service in the Royal Marines and 6 years in the RAAF, said: "The object made each stop with us and paced us exactly. It was quite easy to see and was very unnerving. Eventually, to our great relief, some lights appeared at what I now know to be a kaolin mine. The object seemed to make a shallow descent behind some trees, maintaining the same course and speed. No navigation lights were visible at any time. I spent many years at sea and am used to observing the night sky and this was, to me, unique..."

Cases of this type have to be treated with a great deal of caution as the reported "Pacing" effect can so easily be the result of illusion. However, in view of the above average experience of observation possessed by the witness, further inquiries will be made on this report.

Melbourne movie film

A movie film taken by a Melbourne man on May 2 (reported in the Melb. Sun, 3/5/77) has been viewed by the Society. Examination of the appearance and movement of the image on the film shows nothing to rule out the object being a balloon.

Another Ground Circle

A number of witnesses in the Dandenongs area reported a luminous object moving rapidly from south to north on a descending path on Aug 2. Three of the witnesses interviewed agreed that the phenomenon appeared at about 6.35 a.m. on a shallow descent path, and had the appearance of a globular yellowish-white object with a flame-like tail. In each case the sighting lasted around 5 seconds, and a likely explanation would be in terms of a meteor or space debris re-entry.

However, after brief reports appeared in the Knox and Mountain District Free Press, Mrs. E. Warbarton decided to report to the newspaper that for several years an unexplained ground circle had been plainly visible in a paddock on the Warbarton's cattle grazing property two miles east of Macclesfield.

The 300 acre property, situated on the brow of a hill at 800 feet altitude, is the highest point for a radius of perhaps 10 miles. The site is about 100 feet below the summit in a grass paddock sloping downwards towards the east at about 10 degrees. The nearest edge of the mark is only about 3 feet from a barbed wire fence separating grazing paddock from uncleared bushland.

Showing us over the property, Mr. Warbarton said that the effect was unique in his experience. He could not remember the exact date when it appeared, but felt sure it had been there for 3, or possibly 4 years, and was puzzled as to the reason for its long persistence. A clear brown circle standing out against the green was visible from 200 yards away as we approached. The mark consists of an annular ring of bare soil with a somewhat variable width of 2 to 3 feet, with apparently normal grass growth inside and outside. Due to the indefiniteness in defining the actual edge and the variation from a true circle in the outer boundary itself, exact dimensions cannot be determined, but diameter measurements taken in four equally spaced directions averaged at 9.2 metres with about 0.5 m variation (approx. 28 feet).

Superficial inspection revealed nothing unusual in the appearance of the soil, either in the bare ring or in the grass areas - the only difference appeared to be that some factor in the ring area has inhibited normal grass growth. It is known that some rings of similar type have been caused in the past by certain fungal growths, and this could be a possible explanation. Mr. Warbarton said that he had never observed any fungal effects anywhere else on the property.

Mr. Warbarton said that he had heard of some strange lights in the sky being seen in the area in the past, but to his knowledge, there was no specific visual observation associated with the appearance of the mark. At this stage, nothing can be concluded about the causation of this ground effect.

AUSTRALIAN UFO STATISTICS 1976

From a statistical report compiled by the Centre for UFO Studies, Australian Coordination Section, from data supplied by all participating groups:

The total number of reports received for the year was 439, of which 99 (22.6%) are unidentified. This compares with the Air Force figure of 10.3% for 1976, but it is to be remembered that the Air Force receives mostly "nocturnal light" cases, which have a higher identification rate than the more representative sample reported to the groups.

Single and two witness cases compare with 1975 statistics, although the 1976 percentages are a little lower. However, cases with four witnesses and over show a spectacular rise. Four witness cases rose from 5 in 1975 to 10 in 1976, while cases with 5 or more witnesses rose from 7 to 15.

The majority of reports were nocturnal lights and came from males in the 31 - 40 year age group, compared with 1975 when the majority came from males also, but in the 16 - 20 age group. The greatest number of sightings was between the hours of 6 p.m. and midnight (same as in 1975), but on Saturday nights, compared with Friday nights in 1975. The smallest number of reports was between 6 p.m. and midnight on Monday and midnight to noon Tuesday. Monthly, the highest activity seems to have occurred in Oct., Feb., and Sep., compared to Mar., May and Aug., 1975.

The distribution of the unidentified cases by states was as follows: NSW - 42; Tas - 31; WA - 11; SA - 8; Vic - 4; Qld - 3; NT - no figures available (no participating organisation)

INTERSTATE NEWS

Adelaide, Apr. 22, 1977: Miss M., 19, was driving home after visiting someone and, as this was her usual route, she was travelling westwards along a little used road. The time was close to 11.45 p.m. The road she travelled is bitumen surfaced and she was going along at a steady 50 kph. There are in fact several nasty bends in the road and a descent just shortly after the spot where the incident is reported to have happened.

She had the car radio on and was expecting to be home on time when she noticed a bright light just off to the left of centre of the windscreen and up in the sky. It began to get larger and brighter as if approaching. Suddenly the headlights of the car and radio went off and the two dashboard red warning lights came on. All was quiet and as the road doesn't have any street lights it was very dark. She did not know quite what to think of the situation and did not brake the car, touch the gears, clutch, or anything else, bar hold onto the steering wheel. After a few seconds the headlights came on, the warning lights went out and she was conscious that the radio was on again. At this time the object was visible through the top of the windscreen and disappeared as if travelling over the car, after a total viewing time of about a minute.

Initially it was visible as a bright light of intermixed colours of star sized appearance. It grew bigger and brighter as she drove along, although it did not seem to illuminate the surroundings. At its closest it took on a vertical oval form with "streaks" or "rays" coming away from it. The oval shape was a mixture of red, yellow and green whilst the "rays" were closely spaced intermixed lines of the same colours radiating from the sides, with a gap between the oval and the commencement of each line. The oval appeared solid. At last sight it was more towards the top centre of the windscreen and close to but less than the angular size of the moon. The brightness was not glare to the eyes.

The car was a fairly new manual Datsun 120Y. There had been no problems with the car before or after the incident. When the systems were not functioning she had noted no change in the car engine reaction, i.e. no jerk of the car slowing down, though the estimated "dead" time was at most a few seconds. She had not altered the car's system in any way while the lights were "out".

- From Newsletter, UFO Research Inc., No. 26; 2A Castle Ave., Prospect, S.A. 5082.

Tasmania, Feb., 1976; Summarised details of a case investigated by TUFOIC:

Looking out the window to the east in the early hours, the witness saw what looked to be a plane at 45 deg. For a couple of minutes he watched the object, which had a white beam from the edge like a landing light. The object came down just beyond an oval, where a big glow could be seen. Quickly crossing the oval, he reached the top of a small rise on the opposite side, from where he had an unobstructed view. Just above the ground, about 75 feet away, and 8 - 10 feet lower down was an object emitting light from windows around the side. The exterior looked like aluminium, and the only light was the bright white to yellow from the inside. Dome-shaped with ribbing from the top, it had a small ledge around the base which had a short vertical side. As he approached he heard a humming as if an electric motor was turning over. As it took off the noise increased slowly, and it climbed away at increasing speed at 60 degree angle towards the east. Within 6 to 7 seconds the object had receded to a dot in the sky.

Through the 3 or 4 windows the witness could see a cylindrical object, like a ship's compass mount. He could also see motionless grey "shapes" that looked like the shape of a front car seat when seen from the rear. He thought they may have been just that as he saw no movement. (The investigator felt that they may have been, in view of other reports, possible "occupants", with the witness reluctant to say so?)

A circular scorched area of grass was found the next day, which later died and has been replaced with a different grass. It stands out as a 25 foot circle of olive green colour. Samples were analysed but nothing strange was found.

- TUFOIC, 366 Huon Rd, South Hobart.

S.A. Mystery Stones

Much press publicity was recently given to a find of "saucer-shaped" stones at Leigh Creek, S.A. Despite some sensational speculation as to what they might be, UFO Research S.A. reports that after investigation they proved to be solid earthly rock: "A geologist informs us that such stones are not uncommon and are accretions of materials, e.g., iron stone. Their shape is usually spherical or elliptical, caused by the movement of water. They have been known to be up to 3 metres in size. Some have been found in strata up to 150 million years old".

FROM THE PRESS

Supplied by a Society member, this report is taken from the Balonne Beacon (St. George, Qld), 17/3/77: Two travellers from Brisbane report an unnerving experience when they came under the attention of a UFO near Moonie last night. Jennifer Hands and Michael Noonan had pulled up about 10.30 for an hour's sleep a few miles this side of the township. Jennifer woke to find the lights of their vehicle on, and asked Michael to switch them off. About 12.30 the lights were on again, but the battery was flat. Both people reported a weird sensation: on awakening they felt they should not open their eyes, and are convinced they could not have done so anyway, as some force was holding them immobile. "The weird electrifying sensation can't be described", they said. Eventually, when they did open their eyes, a strange object with flashing lights was hovering some distance away. This rose and also moved sideways before zooming off on the approach of a truck, which clutch-started their vehicle which from there to St. George ran very erratically. The generator and lights would stop working and then come good again, the temperature gauge would rise high and then fall back to cold. Michael said it was hard to control at times, as though a sideways force was being exerted on it. There were also unexplained noises in the back (it's a covered ute) and in the panel work. On arrival at St. George, they parked on a service station forecourt and Jennifer wrote a letter to her mother telling of the experience. As a joke, they looked up, and high overhead they could see several UFOs among the stars. Michael said near where they saw the hovering UFO there was a very acrid smell, similar to that when a number of car batteries are being charged in a confined area. They also found a strange piece of material under the bonnet. This has been given to the police, to whom they have reported their experience. (Local residents also saw strange objects in the sky shortly before midnight).

(Mrs. M. O'Flynn, who sent the report, says that the area is very isolated, with only scattered homesteads and no towns for miles in any direction).

From the Barrier Daily Truth, Broken Hill, 6/6/77:

Two youths reported to police that they were followed by a UFO from near Imperial Lake to Argent Street in the early hours of yesterday morning. Stephen Davies, 17, of Oxide St., and Stephen Raftery, 20, of North mine residents, told police they were travelling along the Wilkesia road when they saw a bright orange light over Round Hill. They stopped their vehicle and the light disappeared. They then turned their vehicle around and headed towards the city. The light again appeared, and, after crossing over the lake at about 200 feet began to follow them towards the city, and it became bigger and brighter as they reached Argent Street. It took on the appearance of a cone-shaped object and was moving sideways. There was no apparent noise from it. The object disappeared when they stopped their car in Argent Street, they said.

From the Derwent Valley Gazette, Tas., 23/6/77:

A strange light was seen in the early morning sky yesterday by two women - one in New Norfolk and one in Kempton. Mrs. Hazel Markham of Charlotte St, New Norfolk, made her sighting about 5 a.m. Mrs. Marilyn Ransley of Kempton, made her sighting between 5.35 and 5.45 a.m. Last night, UFO investigators said they had no ready answer to the two sightings, and the mystery was still being investigated.

Mrs. Markham, an active 79 year old, was in bed "just waiting for morning to come". Through her bedroom window (it faces towards Lachlan) she saw what she described as a "big intensely white light" come into view. The light was travelling roughly from SE to NW, and was on a descending plane, it made no sound and travelled at about the speed of an aircraft. "It was so low and close I thought it was going to drop into the next door garden", she said. "The light was as round as a dinner plate on edge. It seemed to glitter all around the edge. It passed out of sight near Peppermint Hill".

Mrs. Marilyn Ransley of Kempton was getting into her car to go to work at Cadburys when she first noticed a big white round light come over the hills near her house. At first she thought it was the moon, then realised it was only a quarter the size of the moon. She called her daughter to see it: "It had a bigger glow than a bright moon", she said. She said the light moved slowly south. She got into her car and followed the light as best she could, and got out of the car at Bagdad for another look. She watched the light on and off until she reached Bridge-water, then it disappeared...

From the Grafton Daily Examiner, 2/7/77:

A Grafton woman has reported seeing an unidentified flying object in the sky over Grafton early yesterday morning. Mrs. Nola Gerrard, of Butterfactory Lane, said she was awakened about 3.15 a.m. by the noise of cats fighting outside her bedroom window. She looked out the window and saw a dome shaped object in the north-eastern sky. She said it glowed a bright orange and had five beams of light radiating from it, plus a long tail of light. It seemed to be moving back and forwards and finally moved gradually away towards the north.

"It looked huge", Mrs. Gerrard said yesterday afternoon. "I was thinking of ringing the police, but I told myself they'd just think I was mad. But there definitely was something there".

A TELEPORTATION CASE IN QUEENSLAND?

One of our members sent us a copy of an article from a Finnish magazine which deals with the experiences of a Finnish couple travelling in Queensland in 1971. We managed to find a translator and the following is taken from the article, which appeared in the magazine "UFOAIKA", April, 1973. Our Finnish member says he has met the couple and heard their story, but does not know their present whereabouts:

1/8/71. We stopped our car in Gladstone and visited our friends. As we had a long drive ahead of us we ate well and drank some cups of black coffee. We left the place at 23.35 p.m. and drove around Gladstone to find some petrol for our car. We were unsuccessful as no petrol station was open. We decided to take a risk and head towards Rockhampton with the hope of finding an open petrol station before we ran out of fuel.

At midnight we arrived at the Calliope River. The night was foggy and dark, we could barely see the bridge leading over the river. I mentioned that to my wife and said that I had to drive very carefully over the bridge as the surface was wet and slippery. We got over the bridge and onto the straight stretch of road following it. The next thing we saw was a Caltex station on the left side of the road. (This place is north of Mt. Larcom, being approx. 20 miles from the bridge previously mentioned.)

"Look, we are already here", I said to my wife. To our disappointment the station was closed. We had driven approximately 50 yards past the station when I happened to glance through the rear view mirror hoping to see some activity around the petrol station. Then I saw a green light at the level of the treetops. "Have a look at that green light which is following us", I told my wife. She turned around and told me that she was able to see two green lights.

Suddenly we felt as though we would have been driving along an even straight path. The road appeared to be dead straight, foggy, and surrounded with trees. We also appeared to be repeating the same words, "We should have been approaching Mt. Larcom soon".

Suddenly we saw lights down to the left of us and we were wondering what they could be. Above us there appeared to be a circle of lights similar to the lights on a merry-go-round. Next thing we realised was a road sign to Port Alma. This is situated 40 miles north of Calliope River. Immediately after this observation we found ourselves on the railway crossing outside Rockhampton. We were surprised to find ourselves so far and we could not quite understand why we had not seen any villages en route. It crossed our minds that something peculiar had happened to us. We were frightened; including our Candy-dogs, which crawled to the front seat.

In the central part of Rockhampton we found an open petrol station. I asked the attendant what the time was and he replied 15 minutes past midnight (Aug. 2). I told him that it couldn't be possible, as we left Gladstone at 23.35 p.m. A trip to Calliope River will take alone 30 minutes, and from there to Rockhampton the distance is approximately 60 miles. Averaging 30 - 35 mph we could not make the trip in three quarters of an hour.

The service station attendant became interested in us and he asked what had happened. We told him that during our trip we did not see any villages excepting the Caltex station and the road sign to Port Alma. At that stage someone mentioned UFOs, but I wasn't too interested.

Suddenly the service station attendant noticed that our car was covered with a film of oil. During our conversation some onlookers started to gather on the scene. We did get out of the car and noticed that the roof was covered with oil. The serviceman could not identify it. The oil was very fine and odourless. He thought that it would be used on very fine machinery unknown to him. In the corners of the oil-covered bonnet one could distinguish four round marks, two in each rear corner. All marks were identical, 1/8 inch wide and 9 inches in diameter. In the middle there was a one inch solid circle, and the oil trace was running from them toward the nose of the car. Close to the left headlight the car duco was burned off.

All the time more people were gathering at the scene looking at our car. After a while a driver who passed us at Calliope River arrived on the scene. He couldn't comprehend how we could have arrived at Rockhampton before him. Finally we decided to go to the police station where we explained the happenings to a young policeman in charge. He studied awhile the oil and marks on the bonnet and said, "I couldn't offer any other explanation excepting that I have often been driving myself hundreds of miles and fallen asleep, 'waking up' after 200-300 miles drive".

We thanked him for the assistance and went to the local newspaper, but there was only the cleaner available, who told us that the office would be open at 9.30 in the morning. We then drove around the town, and wherever we stopped there were people looking at our car. Slowly it dawned on us what had happened. As we were so concerned about the petrol situation UFOs lifted us from Calliope River past Mt. Larcom to the Caltex Service Station, and from there during a second lift via Port Alma Junction to the railway crossing a couple of miles from Rockhampton.

We continued our trip around 3 O'clock and had 300 miles foggy distance ahead of us. We were wishing that UFOs would have come and helped us again, but that didn't eventuate. During the following day we did inspect our car more carefully and thought that the paint work had burned, lifting off in flakes. This wasn't the case; as the oil mixed with dust had started to dry up it produced this flaking. We tried and found out that the mixture of "oil and dust" was water soluble.

As people used to say, "The reality is often more peculiar than one would read in a story". After this incident many unusual things have been encountered by this couple; let our writer continue....

....I had returned from night shift approx. 2.30 a.m. My wife woke up from a deep sleep 2.55 a.m. and walked out into the dark night. In the vicinity of the woods approx. 150 yards she observed a yellow bright light between the tree tops and the ground. The light did not light up the surroundings. After having stood there for one minute she heard an inner voice (presumably telepathy) saying, "Go to bed, don't walk toward the light". My wife turned around in order to return to the bedroom, but before stepping inside she turned and walked back to her previous position. Again the inner voice urged her to go to bed, which she did this time.

28/9/72. My wife was going shopping in a nearby township. Approx 5 to 6 miles near the city water tower she observed a strange object. This bright round shaped object was going up from the side of the water tower at an angle. Suddenly it changed to black as it started to move horizontally to the right. The object was visible all told 90 seconds....

AND NOW...THE 'WARMINSTER TRIANGLE'

Judging by English press reports, the Bermuda Triangle might be in danger of having its fame eclipsed by a new "triangle" of mysterious happenings. Warminster is a name which has been well known to students of ufology since the mid-sixties; but recent goings-on in this Warminster - Winchester - Glastonbury area of south west England have prompted the press to dub it "The Warminster Triangle". Included amongst the following reports is the continued story of Mrs. Joyce Bowles, whose meeting with a "space man" was reported in the Bull tin, Feb., 77. These extracts are taken from a newspaper feature item supplied by an anonymous donor, name and date not included:-

Suddenly, Joyce Bowles's car stopped. Even though there was nothing wrong with it. She and her friend Ann Stickland were puzzled. Then, there in the heart of the lonely countryside, something happened that bewildered them even more.

"Across the road was what looked like a white sun, a very bright glare", Mrs. Bowles told me. "We both got out of the car and then we saw this UFO. It was oval, glowing luminously and making a humming sound. A man got out and walked towards me, holding out his hands. He came right up to me and took my hand. He eyed Ann up and down. She was terrified. So was I, but I didn't show it. The man started to speak in a foreign language. Then he switched to broken English. I said yes, but I wasn't sure what he'd said. Then he did say something to me which I understood. But I can't tell anyone what it was. I wouldn't dare.

The man looked similar to spacemen I'd seen in that area before, though his hair was rather longer. It fell in front of his shoulders, like a woman's. I could see what looked like buckles on the bottom of his legs. And he was wearing something like gaiters. His touch was warm - like a human being's. Once he had told me what he had to say - and I can't repeat what it was - he turned round and walked back to the thing. We watched it rise into the air and slip away into the sky, humming with a high-pitched scream.

"Ann and I had been on our way to visit friends. But we went straight back to my home in Winchester. I've had a bad chest ever since. My hands swelled up, too, and I had to take off my wedding ring. All around my wedding ring is raw".

Mrs. Bowles's account of a UFO sighting was the most recent of many in the Warminster Triangle. It happened on March 7, and was the third time in three months that she had seen a space visitor. Her companion, 65 year old Mrs. Stickland, said, "I didn't hear what the man said to Joyce and she refuses point blank to tell me, because of a promise she made to him. My mind went blank. I was so surprised and shocked to see him there. And frightened. I've never had such an experience before. At my age I'm a bit too old to have shocks like that".

Mrs. Bowles, 42, claims to have met her first spaceman last November while in her car with a family friend, Ted Pratt. Again it was on a lonely road near Winchester. And again her car stopped suddenly - reports of UFOs from all parts of the world say cars are affected. This time, said Mrs. Bowles, a man in a silvery outfit approached her car, touched it and then returned to a "curious" craft in a field. Other people reported seeing a UFO in the same area that evening.

The second incident happened when Joyce Bowles was with Ted Pratt, again on the outskirts of Winchester. "Ted and I had gone to get some petrol", she said, "when we heard this shrill whistling noise. The car began to rock and suddenly we were both inside this machine. One of the spacemen standing a few feet from me was the same man I saw the first time. Lights were blinking and flashing everywhere in the machine. The man told us this was 'his field', whatever that meant. Another spaceman pulled out a paper which had all sorts of lines on it. In the middle was a circle with rings around it. The men all had high jackboots with pointed toes. The boots, like their silvery suits, were luminous. In the middle of their belts was something like a glittering stone and the man next to me kept pressing his stone, or touching it. Ted believed it was something to do with receiving messages. It all ended suddenly. We just seemed to come to, and were back in our car, stationary. By a river, completely lost. A powerful beam of light filled the car and then gradually seemed to shrink into the sky".

Londoners Steve Evans and Roy Fisher, both 26, would go to Warminster every weekend if their wives would stand for it.... Once, both men experienced a phenomenon they called The Serpent. They were on Cradle Hill, above Warminster, when they heard a rustling sound in the dry grass. "It was followed by a sharp crackling sound, like static electricity", said Steve, of Clapham. "This force field seemed to move through the grass like a snake, crackling furiously. It came straight for Roy's feet, and then veered suddenly to the right. Sheep in the field were going frantic. When daylight came, we found that all the grass was flattened, as if something had landed there"....

(On another occasion)..."Roy and I got the distinct feeling we were being watched. I glanced over my shoulder and suddenly saw a figure in a sort of white boiler suit with a white hat running towards a clump of bushes. I started to chase him. I was making a row myself, crashing through the bracken, but I swear he wasn't making any noise at all. After a while, he slowed down, looked back for a second, and then disappeared into the bushes".

Said Roy: "When Steve ran, I didn't know what he was after, but followed instinctively. Just as I reached the bushes, I got a distinct feeling of someone brushing up against me, and running away. I didn't see or hear anything, but it wasn't imagination. He felt as solid as any man of ordinary size and weight"....

....Headmaster Michael Green is another who spotted a UFO in the Warminster Triangle. It happened on Jan. 24 as pupils were arriving at his school in the Somerset village of Steeple Ashton. Someone phoned Michael and said excitedly, "Have you seen that thing in the sky?" Michael went to a window. "I've no idea what it was", he said. "It looked like a big smoke ring, but it didn't show any signs of dispersing or getting ragged at the edges. It was horizontal and smoky black. I think it was there for several minutes before it flew away. It looked reasonably solid. I'm not a believer, but I'm not a disbeliever either"....

....One teacher, Mrs. Valerie Morris, said the object resembled a huge smoke ring, slightly thicker at the top and at the base. "It was dark grey and black and travelling very fast", she added. "I don't think it could have been a smoke ring because it didn't change shape. Nearly everyone in the school saw it. It was inexplicable...."

....There are also the mysterious leys - a network of straight lines marked by monuments, graves, burial barrows, stone crosses and other ancient holy places or items. Warminster lies at the crossroads of 12 leys, which is unique in Britain, if not the world. Many people believe the leys have a strange power. Some experience a physical sensation, like an electric shock, when they touch ancient stones. They link this with the theory that the leys were laid out to "exploit" the inherent energy of the earth. Prehistoric centres such as Stonehenge were said to be powerhouses for this "earth force" which could be tapped for, among other things, the navigation of spacecraft. The Warminster Triangle is also reputed to have a unique magnetic field, which could be a natural phenomenon or something "planted" here by space travellers thousands of years ago.

***The Winchester encounters were investigated by the British UFO Research Association. The results after checking out Mrs. Bowles's first encounter were summed up in BUFORA Journal, Mar/Apr, 1977:

"....Taking the case overall, and accepting the honesty of the witnesses, one is led to the opinion that they had a genuine and alarming experience. Mrs. Bowles even volunteered to swear on the Bible that what she said was true. Both witnesses are apparently convinced they saw something from outer space...So I will conclude by saying that the probability of a UFO encounter remains open".

SPACEMEN IN WEST WALES, TOO?

West Wales also experienced a record number of sightings during the early part of this year. Some extracts from an article in the London Sun, 18/5/1977:

It was almost one O'clock on a Saturday morning when a seven-foot giant wearing a silver suit blocked the window of Billy and Pauline Coombs' lonely farm cottage. A luminous glow hung around the figure. The head on the massive shoulders had no discernible features. A box-shaped helmet framed a dark square area like a blank watch face.

Pauline, 32, who saw it first, said nothing to Billy, who was sitting with his back to the window. She was too frightened. A few days earlier, she and two of her five children had been terrified when a glowing orb followed their car along the track leading to their home - Ripperton Farm, in Dyfed, South - West Wales. Billy, 33, had discussed the incident with Pauline. Now, sitting in their front room, he glanced over his shoulder - and yelled "Good God! What the hell is that?"

Pauline says: "We stood trembling, sweating and crying with fright. I phoned the police and Mr. Hewison, our boss. Then we rushed upstairs to fetch the children from their beds. The dog, which usually barks at the slightest noise, walked round and round very agitated but without a whimper. Later it would not go out of the house."

Farmer Richard Hewison drove the half mile to the farmhouse. He says: "They were genuinely terrified when I arrived. They were frightened out of their wits".

Josephine, Richard Hewison's 33 year old wife, had an equally terrifying experience shortly before the Coombs saw their spaceman. Josephine, who has a B. Sc. degree in agriculture and an honours degree in agricultural botany, says: "Richard was up and about the farm. It was 10 to eight on a bright sunny morning. I went to the bedroom window and I saw this thing parked alongside the greenhouse. I wasn't in the least frightened. I just couldn't believe my eyes. I thought, 'What on earth is it doing by my greenhouse?' It was a silver colour, about 50 foot across the base, and shaped like a jelly mould. It was as high as a double-decker bus. The greenhouse is 13 foot to the eaves but it towered above it. There was no movement. It had no visible windows or openings. I waited for something to emerge. It didn't. It went after 10 minutes. It left no mark. Not even a broken twig".

Within a 20 mile radius of the Hewison's home there are: the Royal Aircraft Establishment Missile Range; RAF Brawdy; an operational station; the Army's Pendine Ranges; a missile testing ground; supersonic low-flying air corridors; and an American submarine tracking station....

....Teenager Stephen Taylor, of Pen-y-cwm, Haverfordwest, may have come nearer than anybody to one of the figures. Stephen, 18, who works for a mens clothing shop in Haverfordwest, was walking along a lane bordering RAF Brawdy. He says: "I'd taken my girlfriend home and said goodnight about 9 o'clock. I was walking home when I saw something funny in the sky. A dog came tearing out of the darkness towards me. I called at a friend's house and we joked about me seeing a UFO. Then I walked on. Then I made out a black shape. It looked about 40 to 50 feet across. I noticed a dim glow around what seemed to be the underside. Suddenly this figure popped up, right next to me. I was terrified. It was dressed in silver. It seemed to have high cheek-bones. Its eyes were like fish eyes - completely round. I took a swing at it and fled. I don't know whether I hit it. I ran the three miles home"....

....A Ministry of Defence spokesman in London said: "We have heard the reports of sightings of unexplained objects in the West Wales area. The people who report these sightings are not nutcases. They are genuinely sincere people, genuinely concerned. We investigate every report on this assumption. We do not discount the possibility of intelligent life in outer space".

Flight-Lieutenant Cowan, community relations officer at RAF Brawdy, said: "There have been a flood of these reports. The ground sightings do not, in time or place, fit in with our operations. Neither do the descriptions of spacemen fit with the protective clothing used by oil refineries in the area. We accept the possibility of life in outer space. But none of our radar units can explain these sightings"....

SOME AMERICAN REPORTS

Supplied by Joseph M. Brill

Woman in Trance Tells of Space Ordeal (Davis, Cal., Enterprise, 31/1/1977)

Judy Kendell was kidnapped by space beings Saturday when a hypnotist put her in a trance to help her remember what happened to four missing hours of her life. The way the 23 year old legal secretary told it, as she sat shivering on her warm living room couch in her Woodland apartment, the "old blue Ford" she was driving her two sisters home from Bodega Bay to Zamora in was plucked up off the road somewhere on Interstate 505 near the Cache Creek bridge.

They had left their grandmother's Bodega Bay home at 5.30 p.m. on a Sunday in November 1971 or 1972. It was normally only a three hour drive but they didn't get home until midnight with no explanation for why the trip took so long. All they remember was driving across the same bridge twice on a road with little traffic on a pitch black night.

Judy was realising for the first time Saturday that she was kidnapped by a space ship. A roomful of calm UFO researchers and incredulous friends watched Judy shield her face with her hands to prevent seeing a space creature she described as having a bulbous head with saucer-sized red-pupiled gelatinous eyes. She said it had no ears, "just holes". The lower part of its almost translucent "milky" white face was covered with a mask she said while still clutching her face. But still she saw its neck which had red veins, "not like the purple ones we have".

She said its body was human-looking and that it had five fingers on its hands, "like ours". "But the head is so scary looking", she said. "It's coming toward me, I don't want to see it anymore. It's touching me!" Judy said it touched her on the forehead and said in English that wasn't loud but sounded like it was muffled and coming through a distant megaphone, "it's okay, it's okay". "But it's not okay", she said in a small tight voice. Suddenly she grabbed her right side and leaned over as if in pain.

The hypnotist, Dr. W. C. McCall, who had flown in from Anaheim for this occasion, asked Judy what was happening. "I feel like I got poked", she said. McCall took her through the experience repeatedly. She got relaxed after being poked and was lying on a cold table with a sheet over her. "They are taking urine out of me. They are catheterising me", she said with expression of disgust passing over her face. "Uhhh".

She saw three different type creatures all dressed in grey standing at the foot of the table. She had no clear description of their faces. Strangely, she saw a regular human woman with straight black hair and blue eyes, who handed the creature a tube of colourless fluid, "that you can't see through".

The woman knew her name and was trying to reassure her. "I don't know how she knows my name", Judy said. "I don't remember saying anything to her". For the most part, "nobody was saying anything", she said.

She got a pain at the top of her right thigh and held her hand on it, but she couldn't say what was happening. "They are looking in my ear. I feel a strange thing there. It feels cold and hard inside", she said. She said they were looking at her feet.

Throughout the ordeal, Judy kept complaining of a headache and clutching her head which at times she said felt like it was being "pressed tightly". The creature placed a heavy metal machine over her eyes she said, and she heard a quiet motor whirring inside.

"Is it a brain reading machine?" McCall asked.

"I don't know", she said.

When her head could move, slightly, Judy saw what she described as a "round room" with windows all around. She saw two bucket seats at one side of the room with a "console with a lever like a car gear shift in the middle". There were three lights over the seats, she said. She pointed to her left and said she saw a table with what looked like doctors' "probes" on it. She saw a black box there, too, with "speaker holes in it". She said she couldn't see behind her where she said the machine that was put over her eyes came from.

But she heard her sister, who wishes to remain unidentified, and who won't have anything to do with this hypnotism, crying. "I can hear her calling my name. She is crying. She is really upset. She sounds far away. I hope she is alright", Judy said anxiously. The next thing she said was that she was behind the wheel without really knowing how she got there.

McCall ran her through the experience again and she remembered the three grey clothed creatures carrying her by her hands and feet and throwing her into the car. "They must have carried me because I couldn't walk", she said.

She didn't know where her sisters were. They suddenly seemed to materialise, she said.

When they were back in the car, it was pitch black. And then... "We just landed on the road - in my car!?" she said in a disbelieving voice. "In my car", she said with certain amazement.

They arrived in Zamora at about 12 midnight after crossing the Cache Creek bridge on Interstate 505 twice. They had left Bodega Bay for the three hour drive at 5.30 p.m. on a date they still can't pinpoint for certain. The seven hour drive remains almost as much a mystery as it was when they had no idea what happened.

Alvin Lawson, a professor of English at California State University at Long Beach, and a UFO researcher, said Judy's story could be as much an idiosyncrasy in human makeup as an abduction by space creatures. None of the researchers, who in many ways were as mysterious as the story itself, would say for certain how they felt about Judy's story.

McCall said he has hypnotised about six people with similar abduction stories.

One of the problems is to get collaborating stories from both her sisters. But neither of them wants anything to do with reliving the experience.

"They are scared to find out what may have happened to them", Judy said.

UFO Spotting Focuses on Deputy Creel (Madison County Herald, Miss., 17/2/1977)

When Madison County Sheriff's Deputy Kenneth Creel left on a routine patrol drive last Thursday evening, he didn't expect to find his attention completely focused on an unidentified flying object (UFO). Since he reported the incident to the Mississippi Highway Patrol that evening last week, however, Creel has now found even more national attention focused on himself.

"I know I'm not crazy...I've always said I didn't believe in this stuff", said Creel. "I don't know what I saw, but I know I saw something...It's just hard to describe what happened".

Deputy Creel first saw the object while driving down the Smith School Road four miles west of Flora, near the county line. He was with Constable James Luke at the time. "It looked like an evening star or something", said Creel, "but it kept getting brighter and bigger".

Then, when the shape of the object began to form, Creel said he contacted the Mississippi Highway Patrol with his car radio equipment. "I kind of thought it was an airplane flying low, or like it could have been".

But when the strange object came within "about 200 yards" of his car - "out across the field" - then, Creel said, "I stopped and cut my engine and my lights to listen". What he heard was a whirring noise - "Like a blender... Like it was straining, when you first put ice in it" - and then the UFO started coming closer.

"The thing came right over the car", said Creel. "It came right to us, like it was being piloted". How the "thing" got there is another question, because Creel says he could not tell if anything or anyone was inside. "The thing just hovered over us, about 20 or 30 feet up, for more than a minute", said Creel, who at this time was looking straight up, from his patrol car window. "I didn't get out, I wouldn't".

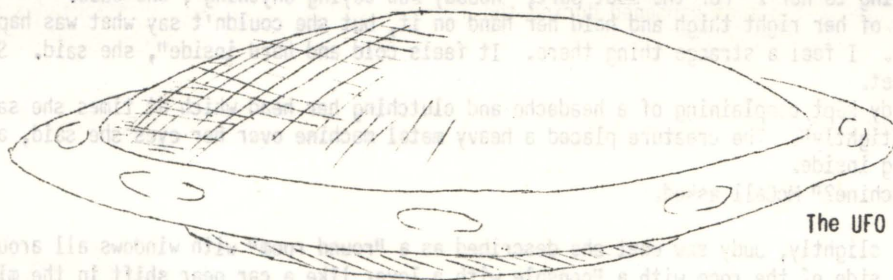
According to Deputy Creel, there was little way to tell much about the craft. "There was light coming out from little windows", he said. And the light apparently changed colours several times, from soft blue to red to green and other colours.

The UFO was reportedly about 30 to 40 feet in diameter, and perfectly round. "It didn't spin or anything. It just hovered around there". After about a minute, Creel began backing up his patrol car "about 100 yards, to a place where I could turn around".

By this time, however, Highway Patrolman Louis Younger drove up in his patrol car within a short distance of the UFO, and reported seeing the same object - with the same description Creel had given. "Then the thing just picked up and took off, north west, towards Satartia".

An unidentified object of the same general description was reported the same evening by other Flora residents, and Deputy Charles Bowering and Highway Patrolman Joe Chandler and others said they saw lights from an unidentified craft "from a distance".

Since the sighting last week, Creel has tried to play down the incident....



The UFO as described by Creel.

ASTRONOMERS VOTE TO KEEP SEARCHING FOR UFOS

Special to the Christian Science Monitor, 16/5/1977.

A survey of trained sky watchers, all members of the American Astronomical Society (AAS), reveals that most of them feel UFOs deserve further scientific study. Of 1356 AAS members replying to a questionnaire from Prof. Peter A. Sturrock, an astrophysicist and member of Stanford's Applied Physics Department, four fifths feel that the UFO mystery "certainly...probably...or possibly...deserves scientific study". Only 20 percent thought it was "probably not" or "certainly not" worth further investigation.

In 1975 Prof. Sturrock polled 2611 astronomers with the consent of the AAS council, and received a 53% response. A principal conclusion from his recently published report of the results is that "scientists have thoughts and views but no answers concerning the UFO problem".

Among those responding were 34 who would not sign their names. "This fact and many comments confirm that the UFO problem is a sensitive issue for most scientists", says Professor Sturrock. In his published report all names are withheld.

"Nevertheless, only a few (13) respondents made critical remarks about the subject or the survey", he says. "50 made encouraging statements, 34 offered to help, and seven indicated they are actively studying the problem".

Among those who replied, 62 had witnessed or obtained an instrumental record of an event which they could not identify and which they thought might be related to the UFO phenomenon. Those who had witnessed such events, or had spent more time reading about them, or were merely younger, seemed more open-minded and less negative towards UFOs. Also, he found mathematicians appear to have a lower opinion of the importance of such phenomena than astronomers, astrophysicists, or physical scientists....

....Skeptics among the respondents were outspoken. "I object to being quizzed about this obvious nonsense", says one. "Having talked to some non-AAS 'experts' in the UFO field", says another, "I am convinced that 99.9 percent of them are crackpots, psychopaths, or otherwise unreliable characters"....

....Professor Sturrock's view of the Condon Report, which led to the termination of Project Blue Book, the Air Force's UFO investigation, is that "Condon's conclusions were expressed cautiously but were clearly negative", and he adds that subsequent study of the report "brings to light serious discrepancies between Condon's assessments and those of his staff".

More than 80 percent of Prof. Sturrock's respondents expressed willingness to help solve the UFO problem if they could see a way of doing it. But only 13 percent thought they could see a way. "Those who have studied the subject are more willing to help and more likely to see a way to help", he says. "If scientists are to contribute to the resolution of the UFO problem, it is essential that they begin an exchange of relevant information"....

....Professor Sturrock points out that his findings in the AAS poll agree with those of an earlier poll he took of members of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. ("Astronautics & Aeronautics", May, 1974)

MYSTERIOUS TRIP INTO THE FUTURE?

Santiago - It was 4.15 a.m. in Chile's far north desert country. Six members of an army cavalry patrol were bedded down around a campfire while two men stood on guard. Suddenly, two brightly shining objects began descending from on high. Corporal Armando Valdes ordered his men into combat position, then set out to investigate, and, according to the men, simply disappeared. Fifteen minutes later he reappeared among them, tried to say something and passed out.

He reportedly regained consciousness about 7 a.m., but the men said his watch said only 4.30, about the time they estimated he reappeared. They also said the date on his watch was five days in the future and that Valdes had a five day growth of beard.

The April 25 incident near the Peruvian border came to light during the past week, and has been followed by dozens of other claims of people sighting unidentified flying objects up and down Chile's 2700 mile length...Some people said they had seen UFOs in the past but had kept quiet until now for fear of having their sanity questioned. One newspaper wondered if the Andes mountains, which form the eastern border of this narrow country, could be a base for outer space vehicles.

The military patrol related its desert experience to a teacher in Arica, the largest town in the area. The teacher taped his conversation with the men and made the tape available to the local newspaper. Corporal Valdes, according to the tape, does not remember anything that happened during the 15 minutes he was missing. His comrades said that when Valdes was beginning to come around after he had passed out, he said: "You do not know who we are, nor where we come from, but I tell you that we will soon return".

Members of the patrol said one UFO dropped into the Andes foothills out of direct sight but they could see the glow of its light. The second, they said, lowered itself almost to the ground within 500 yards of them. They said it put out a violet light with two points of intense red.

Some people suggested the soldiers may have experienced a desert mirage. But other sightings have been reported in the outskirts of temperate Santiago, in the rainy lake region about 600 miles to the south, and over the Straits of Magellan at the cold southern tip of the continent....

....Several people who have seen UFOs recently estimated their size at about 12 feet (3.6 metres) in diameter. Most say they are round or oval - "like a huge wagon wheel", said one woman....

--from the Geelong Advertiser, 28/5/1977.

REPORT FROM FINLAND

Eero, a 19 year old man, with his five friends, saw shining objects landing in the centre of the industrial area of Uleaborg. As they approached, they saw two shining balls of approx. 1½ metres diameter, hovering motionless above the ground, radiating shorter and longer shafts of light in different directions. Eero went nearer the objects to investigate, and in approaching the nearest sphere, his friends who watched him from some distance gave this description:

As he approached the nearest ball the rays seemed to penetrate Eero, and he fell to the ground screaming for help. He complained of chest pains, and on examination by a doctor, red marks were found on the chest and on the back.

-translated by M. Lovass from CENAP Report, May, 1977 (Centrales Erforschungsnetz Abergwohnlicher Phänomene, Eisenacher Weg 16, 6800 Mannheim 42)

U.N. Gets A UFO Call (Herald, 26/7/1977: The United Nations General Assembly was today asked to consider investigating unidentified flying objects. Grenada Prime Minister Mr. Eric Gairy proposed in a letter that a special UN body be set up to probe UFOs. He said the UN should declare 1978 the International Year of UFOs. A special commemorative stamp series should also be issued and the Second International Congress on UFOs be held in Grenada, Mr. Gairy said. Mr. Gairy recalled that he had asked for a UN department or agency to investigate unexplained phenomena - among them, the Bermuda Triangle - in each of the last two assembly sessions.

UFOCON 3

The third national conference of Australian UFO researchers is to be held on Nov. 12, 13 and 14, 1977, at the Chevron Hotel, Surfer's Paradise. Organised by CUFOS - ACOS on behalf of all Australian groups, UFOCON 3 follows similar conferences held in 1975 and 1976, and will be attended by representatives from VUFORS.

VUFORS COMMITTEE

Results of the election for VUFORS office-bearers held at the Annual General Meeting on Friday, May 27, 1977:

President:	Peter Norris
Vice-President:	Guy Richards
Secretary:	Ray Fischer
Treasurer:	Clive Yates
Committee Members:	Nada Richards
	Mrs. A. Briggs
	Les Bristol
	Michael McNamara
	Rodney Marrow
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Australian UFO Bulletin is produced quarterly by the Victorian UFO Research Society, P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria, Australia, 3189; a non-profit organisation dedicated to the objective investigation of the UFO phenomenon. The Society welcomes eye-witness accounts, and any information concerning the observation of unidentified flying objects and unusual aerial phenomena.

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